

March 1, 2016

Re: Senate Bill No. 317 Testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

Please note this testimony is my written testimony, I will not be testifying at the hearing. It is further important to note that I do support, SB 317, An Act Concerning Dyslexia but am requesting an amendment that candidates seek a remedial reading endorsement complete a graduate level program aligned with evidence-based practices and the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading.

My name is Tamara Bross. I live in Plainville and have an eight year old daughter who has been diagnosed with dyslexia. My daughter was first diagnosed in first grade after pushing the school for answers as to why she couldn't remember sight words and her reading wasn't progressing even though I was very active with working with the teachers since kindergarten to help her grow. She was diagnosed in January of 2014. There were some services put in place and the special education teacher began working with her.

However, she hit second grade, walked into school the first day and was handed a piece of paper like every other student and was told to write down what they did for the summer. She in turn came home crying to me after her first day of school. I then had to work with the teachers to get all of the services which were put into place for her first year of schooling into the second year of schooling. Better yet, all I kept hearing from the teachers were that they understood that she struggled with reading and writing. Dyslexia is much more than just a struggle with reading and writing. My daughter is now in third grade and with each year I am consistently reaching out to the teachers and helping to guide them through my daughters dyslexia needs. Furthermore, my daughter has been directed to summer school each year and the teachers within the summer school do not how to approach children with dyslexia only causing confusion in the process which they should utilize and creating emotional frustration for the child. A simple course regarding dyslexia is not going to work as a full time solution. Dyslexia needs to be addressed at a young age and not having teachers who have the wherewithal and capability to address these specific issues could change their entire future.

Dyslexia is a tricky diagnosis for anyone to have but especially a child. As in the case of my daughter and many other's their IQ and intelligence level is strong however their ability to be able to write or read you a story is quite a challenge. One day of school for my daughter feels like ten hours given the additional effort and focus which is required daily. Furthermore, she has children who taunt her for why she can't figure out how to read, is at a lower reading level or why she can't write long stories such as theirs. Having to struggle each year with a teacher who doesn't know how to work with my daughter, when I am certain they would want to have the additional knowledge to see her succeed, seems senseless. One course will never teach educators what they need to know.

I do hope you will consider this testimony and think for one moment if your child was faced with this challenging diagnosis, coming home thinking they were stupid on a daily basis, regardless of what you

had to say simply because the educators were not equipped with how to assist your smart child with how to get their thoughts onto a piece of paper or how to read at their grade level, would just one course be enough to teach your child's educator?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bross'.

Tamara Bross

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Plainville, CT